3:Stern E-4,5 (1949-1957) 1965 NR 10 Klamath NR 10
Modoc NS17

[Klamath Reservation]

under Blow and Link River Jack appropriated them as their own property.[31] Appeal to the Agent, Captain O. C. Knapp, proved fruitless; he only advised the Modoc to move further away from the Klamath. Captain Jack is reported to have told his followers, "I do not want my men to be slaves for these Indians, and they shall not be. My people are just as good as these Indians."[32]

While Schonchin was away fishing, Captain Jack overwhelmed the "friendly" subchiefs, Chief George and Charlie Riddle, and the Modoc left the reservation in a body. After reporting their departure, Schonchin joined them. There remained only a small party of twenty, who had been settled at Yainax earlier that year. Through them, Ivan Applegate contacted the absentee Modoc and persuaded Schonchin to return. When he did so, in the spring of the year (1870), he refused to rejoin the Lower End Klamath and was established instead at Yainax, home of his Upland Klamath mother, where Monchnkasgitk and the Paiute were already in residence. Evidently, the latter held the main voice there, for the following year—though only temporarily as it turned out—Yainax was made independent of Klamath Agency, "owing to the fact that these Indians had long been at war with those at Klamath. . . ." The change, "demanded by the chief headmen of the Snakes and Wall-pah-pe tribes, [was] approved by the chiefs and headmen of the Klamaths."[33]

With Captain Jack's refusal to return to the reservation, the veto of A. B. Meacham's proposal that he be granted a tract in the Tule Basin (as originally envisaged in the Steele treaty), and the decision of Meacham's successor, T. B. Odeneal, that the Modoc be brought forcibly upon the Klamath reservation, the lines were laid for the fatal flare-up of the Modoc War. The outbreak of hostilities found Allen David "very faithful and active in his efforts to preserve a good feeling among all the Indians on the Reservation, repeatedly visiting the Snakes and Scontian's band of Madocs [sic], advising them to keep quiet on the Reservation and have nothing to do with Capt. Jack's people."[34]

Fearful that the hostile Modoc would induce the Yainax Paiute and Modoc to join them, Dyar organized a home guard. At the Lower End, Dave Hill and Henry Blow swiftly recruited 32 men, primarily from the Link River band, while Oliver Apple-

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gate marshaled together 34 at Yainax, including Monchnkasgitk—again given the title of chief—and many of his Upland band, a number of Schonchin's Modoc, 1 Pit River, and 1 Snake. Soon thereafter, under the militia law of the state, Applegate was authorized to enlist a company of volunteers. The muster rolls of his company bear a total of 69 names, among them those of 28 Indians, apparently exclusive of Hill's scouts.[35] Despite the fact that when they enlisted there had been a distinct understanding that they were to serve only as a home guard, they soon were ordered to the front.

As Capt. Oliver Applegate found, the Lower End Klamath were reluctant to go. Schonchin took the position that Jack's men and the soldiers were both bad, and proposed sensibly to let them fight it out while his men guarded the reservation. Indeed, Lindsay Applegate experienced equal difficulty in raising volunteers among the settlers at Ashland, noting in explanation that, ". . . the nervs of the people aperse to Be shokt."[36]

Although they performed well, the reservation volunteers were something less than fierce warriors in a conflict that was not their own. Oliver Applegate, to be sure, reports that his men were eager to scalp one wounded Modoc and that on another occasion they were reluctant to withdraw from a skirmish.[37] Surely, they were no strangers to internecine warfare among the bands, infrequent though that had been. Fundamentally, however, this was a white man's war, for which they could muster no great zeal.

The hostile Modoc, though irked at the readiness of the volunteers to take the field, exercised a like restraint. When they captured two Klamath, they made them perform war dances in traditional manner, but did not otherwise mistreat them.[38] One Klamath was hit during the fighting, being saved from injury by a "heavy buckskin coat"—perhaps an elkskin cuirass. It may be that he was singled out, for as a guard at Yainax he had earlier fired upon some infiltrating Modoc.[39]

In the first frontal assault on the Lava Beds, it is remembered today that the Klamath called over to the Modoc and reached an agreement that they would not shoot at each other. Soon thereafter the Klamath were replaced by a party of Warm Springs scouts under Donald McKay, and the Oregon Volunteers